

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UK

SUBJECT: COFFEE--CHANGE OF DATES FOR NEGOTIATING SESSION
OF I.C.C.

REF: A) THIGPEN-O'DONNELL TELCONS; B) STATE 195027

1. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOUDON OF INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO) HELD AN INFORMAL MEETING OF ICO LONDON REPS MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FOR POSTPONING NEGOTIATING SESSION OF COFFEE COUNCIL (ICC) ONE WEEK AND RECONVENING CONTACT GROUP. BRAZIL (RAFFAELLI), CANADA (MUSGROVE), COLOMBIA (SANTOS), COSTA RICA (ESCALANTE), EL SALVADOR (CASTRO), FINLAND (TURUNEN), GUATEMALA (MONTES), KENYA (MBWIATHI), MEXICO (GONZALEZ), OAMCAF (N'DIA), SWEDEN (ANKARBERG)' UK (HORLU), ATTENDED IN ADDITION TO US REP. PROPOSAL WAS FULLY DEBATED AND CONSENSUS REACHED THAT ICC DATES SHOULD BE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 14

TO: NOVEMBER 3-NOVEMBER 21

CONTACT GROUP EXPECTED TO BE RECONVENED FIRST WEEK, AND A FOURTH WEEK, I.E., TO NOVEMBER 28, COULD BE ADDED IF
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REQUIRED. RESULTS OF MEETING WILL BE RELAYED TO ICC

CHAIRMAN (SHARPE--CANADA) WHO WILL FORMALLY CHANGE DATES.

2. IN SUPPORTING PROPOSAL, BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA ANNOUNCED THAT CALAZANS AND GOMEZ WOULD BE PREPARED ATTEND, STARTING NOVEMBER 3 (RAFFAELLI TOLD US REP CALAZANS LIKELY ATTEND ONLY FIRST AND LAST WEEKS). US REP STATED WE PLANNED HAVE "TOP DECISION MAKER" FOR START OF CONFERENCE (I.E., TO COINCIDE WITH CONTACT GROUP MEETING DURING FIRST WEEK). N'DIA SUPPORTED NOVEMBER 3 DATE BUT DID NOT COMMIT SAWADOGO TO A SPECIFIC DATE. HE SAID HE HAD "TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE" OF STATEMENTS ABOUT ARRIVALS OF IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES SO THAT ALL COULD BE HERE AT SAME TIME" AND WOULD REPORT THIS TO HIS AUTHORITIES (IMPRESSION WAS THAT SAWADOGO IS LIKELY TO FALL IN LINE WITH OTHERS AND ARRIVE NOVEMBER 3).

3. EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA, AND MEXICO STRONGLY SUPPORTED PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE. UK AND SWEDEN CONCURRED WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING GREATLY TO DISCUSSION. CANADA, GUATEMALA AND KENYA EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONFLICTS WITH OTHER MEETINGS BUT DID NOT OPPOSE CHANGE (CONFLICTS ARE ROME FAO MEETING, OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST TO KENYA AND INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL IN LONDON, NOVEMBER 10-21).

4. REGARDING LEGAL STATUS OF NOVEMBER ICC AND CONTACT GROUP SESSIONS, LOUDON SAID IN HIS VIEW NOVEMBER MEETING WAS SIMPLY A CONTINUATION OF LAST ICC SO THERE WAS NO NEED TO "RE-CONSTITUTE" CONTACT GROUP, ONLY FOR ICC CHAIRMAN TO CALL IT BACK INTO SESSION. ESCALANTE PICKED THIS UP TO EMPHASIZE THAT NOVEMBER SESSIONS THEREFORE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET OFF TO RAPID START WITHOUT USUAL WHEEL SPINNING.

5. SECRETARIAT HOPES TO HAVE DRAFT ARTICLES OF NEW AGREEMENT AND DRAFT REGULATIONS--DRAWN UP AS DIRECTED BY LAST ICC SESSION--FOR CIRCULATION PRIOR TO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 17.

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